

## Office of the National Ombudsman

## Regulatory Fairness Forum for Small Business

Thursday, July 19, 2007 Honolulu, HI

## Small business owners will have an opportunity to discuss issues regarding Federal regulatory compliance and enforcement during this Forum.

Have you or a small business owner you know been unfairly fined or penalized by a Federal government agency, or is a Federal agency enforcement action imminent?

WHO: SBA National Ombudsman Nicholas Owens, members of the Regional Regulatory Fairness Board and representatives of Federal regulatory agencies will hear issues and comments about Federal regulatory enforcement and compliance. Small business owners, representatives of trade associations and community and business leaders are invited to comment about compliance and enforcement of regulations by Federal agencies.

WHAT: To create a more cooperative and fair regulatory environment among Federal agencies and small businesses, the National Ombudsman holds Regulatory Fairness Forums. Issues addressed at this forum will be directed to the appropriate Federal regulatory agency for a high-level review of the fairness in the enforcement action. In many instances, the National Ombudsman's action has resulted in Federal agencies reducing or waiving penalties and/or compliance actions in cases of unfair or excessive regulatory enforcement.

**WHERE:** 1132 Bishop Street Building Conference Room, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Honolulu, HI 96813 (Enter building from Union Mall or Fort Street Mall)

WHEN: Thursday, July 19, 2007

Registration: 9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Forum: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Small business owners may testify during the forum by registering in advance. Please call Karen Sakihama at (808) 541-2990 Ext. 209 at the SBA Hawai'i District Office or send an e-mail to <a href="mailto-karen.sakihama@sba.gov">karen.sakihama@sba.gov</a>. Testimony may be submitted in writing in advance or at the forum. Anyone desiring confidentiality may request that his or her name not be released and may submit written testimony in lieu of a public appearance at the forum.

## For more information:

visit the website of the Office of the National Ombudsman <u>www.sba.gov/ombudsman</u> or call José Méndez at (202) 205-6178

